

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042366
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00
IO-13 NSCE-00 EUR-12 CPR-01 PA-01 USIE-00 ACDA-12
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY - HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)
XW, DF, SO, IV

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
PRESIDENT HO;PHOUET-BOIGNY

REF: A) SECTO 13097 B) SECTO 13098 C) SECTO 13088

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM
HOUPHOUET REFTELS A AND B.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE READ WITH CARE AND APPRECIATION YOUR LETTER OF
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DECEMBER 29, DELIVERED TO SECRETARY VANCE IN RIYADH BY
YOUR SPECIAL EMISSARY. YOUR RECENT INTERVENTION WITH
PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN, AS DID YOUR
EFFORTS TO FACILITATE DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE, THE RESPECT
YOU COMMAND AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS.

PREVIOUSLY, PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAD ONLY GIVEN AN ORAL COMMITMENT TO A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH KENYA; I AM PLEASED THAT YOU CONVINCED HIM TO PUT HIS COMMITMENT IN WRITING. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT, TO WHICH WE ARE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

WE ARE DISTURBED BY THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN, PARTICULARLY BY THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIONS IN ETHIOPIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ADDITIONAL HEAVY SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE ON THEIR WAY TO ETHIOPIA, AND THAT MANY MORE CUBAN TROOPS ARE EXPECTED AND MAY ENTER ACTIVE FIGHTING SOON.

THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND I HAVE SO STATED PUBLICLY. WE DO NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF ETHIOPIA TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE IN SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST AN ATTACK ON ITS SOIL, BUT SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT, WHICH IS EXCESSIVE, IS NOT BEING PROVIDED IN A WAY THAT ENCOURAGES SETTLEMENT OF UNDERLYING ISSUES; INSTEAD, IT EXACERBATES THE SITUATION AND IT INJECTS INTO AFRICA A FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE.

THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE HOPE FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA UNTIL THE SOMALIS MOVE OUT OF THE OGADEN. I HOPE THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO DO SO IN RETURN FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE OF THEIR OWN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND PERHAPS SOME FORM OF AUTONOMY
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FOR CITIZENS OF THE OGADEN AREA. AT THE SAME TIME, I BELIEVE THAT AFRICAN STATES SHOULD ALSO INSIST ON THE REMOVAL OF SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES FROM ETHIOPIA.

I VALUE MOST HIGHLY YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BRING THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION TO A JUST AND PEACEFUL END. I HOPE YOU WILL SHARE WITH ME YOUR THOUGHTS AND ADVICE ON THIS IMPORTANT AND URGENT ISSUE.

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAS TOLD ME OF YOUR KIND INVITATION, WHICH YOU SENT THROUGH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE, TO VISIT ABIDJAN ON MY FORTHCOMING AFRICAN TRIP. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THIS INVITATION AND HOPE THAT I MAY ACCEPT IT ON A SUBSEQUENT JOURNEY. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS TRIP WILL BE CONSTRAINED BY THE NEED FOR ME TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN TIME FOR THE OPENING OF CONGRESS IN EARLY APRIL.

I SEND MY BEST WISHES FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO YOU PERSONALLY, AND TO THE IVORIAN PEOPLE. SINCERELY,
JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER BEING
POUCHED TO POST.

3. FRENCH TRANSLATION OF TEXT IN PARA 1 FOLLOWS:

4. BEGIN TEXT:

LE 10 FEVRIER 1978

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,

C'EST AVEC SOIN ET APPRECIATION QUE J'AI LU VOTRE LETTRE
DU 29 DECEMBRE REMISE AU SECRETAIRE VANCE A RIYAD PAR
VOTRE EMISSAIRE SPECIAL. VOTRE INTERVENTION RECENTE
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AUPRES DU PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE DEMONTRE UNE FOIS ENCORE,
DE MEME QUE VOS EFFORTS DESTINES A FACILITER L'ACCESSION
A L'INDEPENDANCE DE DJIBOUTI, LE RESPECT QUE VOUS INSPIREZ
PARMI LES DIRIGEANTS AFRICAINS.

ANTERIEUREMENT, LE PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE S'ETAIT SEULEMENT
ENGAGE VERBALEMENT A UN PACTE DE NON-AGRESSION AVEC LE
KENYA; JE ME FELICITE QUE VOUS L'AYEZ CONVAINCU DE PRENDRE
CET ENGAGEMENT PAR ECRIT. CELA CONSTITUE UN FAIT
ENCOURAGEANT AUQUEL NOUS ACCORDONS UNE ATTENTION SERIEUSE.

NOUS TROUVONS INQUIETANT LE CONFLIT DANS LA CORNE DE
L'AFRIQUE, NOTAMMENT LES INCIDENCES EVENTUELLES DES ACTIONS
SOVIETIQUES ET CUBAINES EN ETHIOPIE. NOUS CROYONS SAVOIR
QUE DE NOUVELLES EXPEDITIONS CONSIDERABLES D'ARMES ET
DE PERSONNEL MILITAIRE SONT EN VOIE D'ACHEMINEMENT VERS
L'ETHIOPIE ET QUE DE NOMBREUSES AUTRES TROUPES CUBAINES
SONT ATTENDUES ET POURRAIENT BIENTOT ENTRER EFFECTIVEMENT
EN ACTION.

LES ETATS-UNIS APPUIENT LE PRINCIPE DE L'INTEGRITE TER-
RITORIALE ET JE L'AI DECLARE PUBLIQUEMENT. NOUS NE CON-
TESTONS PAS LE DROIT DE L'ETHIOPIE DE DEMANDER DE L'AIDE
EN CAS DE LEGITIME DEFENSE CONTRE UNE ATTAQUE SUR SON SOL,
MAIS L'APPUI SOVIETIQUE ET CUBAIN, QUI EST EXCESSIF,
N'EST PAS FOURNI D'UNE FACON QUI ENCOURAGE UN REGLEMENT
DES QUESTIONS FONDAMENTALES; IL AGGRAVE, AU CONTRAIRE,
LA SITUATION ET INTRODUIT EN AFRIQUE UNE PRESENCE
MILITAIRE ETRANGERE.

IL SEMBLE Y AVOIR PEU D'ESPOIR DE NEGOCIATIONS SERIEUSES
ENTRE L'ETHIOPIE ET LA SOMALIE JUSQU'A CE QUE LA SOMALIE
SE RETIRE DE L'OGADEN. J'ESPERE QUE CETTE DERNIERE

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POURRA ETRE PERSUADEE DE LE FAIRE EN ECHANGE D'UNE GARANTIE INTERNATIONALE DE SA PROPRE INTEGRITE TERRITORIALE ET PEUT-ETRE D'UNE FORME D'AUTONOMIE POUR LES HABITANTS DE LA REGION DE L'OGADEN. PAR AILLEURS, JE PENSE QUE LES ETATS AFRICAINS DEVRAIENT EGALEMENT INSISTER SUR L'EVACUATION DES FORCES SOVIETIQUES ET CUBAINES D'ETHIOPIE.

;APPRECIE AU PLUS HAUT POINT LES EFFORTS QUE VOUS POUR-SUIVEZ POUR AMENER CETTE SITUATION DANGEREUSE A UN TERME JUSTE ET PACIFIQUE. J'ESPERE QUE VOUS VOUS VOUDREZ BIEN ME FAIRE PART DE VOS PENSEES ET DE VOTRE AVIS SUR CETTE QUESTION IMPORTANTE ET URGENTE.

LE VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE M'A TRANSMIS L'AIMABLE INVITATION QUE VOUS M'AVEZ ENVOYEE PAR L'INTERMEDIAIRE DE MONSIEUR PHILIPPE YACE, PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE, DE ME RENDRE A ABIDJAN LORS DE MON VOYAGE EN AFRIQUE DANS UN AVENIR PROCHE. J'APPRECIE VIVEMENT CETTE INVITATION ET J'ESPERE QU'IL ME SERA POSSIBLE DE L'ACCEPTE A L'OCCASION D'UN VOYAGE ULTERIEUR. MALHEUREUSEMENT, LE VOYAGE ACTUELLEMENT PREVU SE TROUVERA LIMITE PAR LA NECESSITE DE MON RETOUR A WASHINGTON EN TEMPS VOULU POUR L'OUVERTURE DE LA SESSION DU CONGRES AU DEBUT D'AVRIL.

PERMETTEZ-MOI DE VOUS EXPRIMER MES MEILLEURS VOEUX DE PAIX ET DE PROSPERITE, A VOUS PERSONNELLEMENT, ET AU PEUPLE IVOIRIEN.

JE VOUS PRIE D'AGREER, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, LES ASSURANCES DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION.

JIMMY CARTER

SON EXCELLENCE
MONSIEUR FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY,
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE COTE-D'IVOIRE
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ABIDJAN

END TEXT. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Message ID: 0e569cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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